

# “Action for Peacekeeping” Reform Comes Too Late for Civilians in the Central African Republic

This timeline highlights some of the major developments between November 2017 and November 2018 in relation to efforts to improve MINUSCA’s performance and capacity (on the left), and the attacks against civilians and peacekeepers in CAR that have continued in parallel (on the right). The timeline starkly demonstrates the price paid by civilians in CAR due to political and financial divisions in New York and underperformance by an overstretched and out-gunned UN peacekeeping mission deployed in a country still at war.

## 2017

### 13 NOVEMBER

The head of UN Peacekeeping **establishes an investigation** into MINUSCA’s response to attacks against civilians from May to August 2017 in the south and east of CAR. Brigadier-General Ferdinand Amoussou is appointed to lead the investigation.

### 15 NOVEMBER

The UN Security Council **renews the MINUSCA mandate** and approves an additional 900 troops for the mission in the face of critical capacity gaps facing the mission amid a deteriorating protection and humanitarian crisis.

### 27 NOVEMBER

The UN officially **requests Brazil to join MINUSCA** as part of the additional capacity mandated by the Security Council. Brazil offers 750 troops to the mission.



UN Photo/Herve Serejfo

### 24 JANUARY

The UN releases **limited findings and recommendations** from the Amoussou investigation. The investigation finds “deficiencies” in MINUSCA’s response to the incidents under question.

### 1 MARCH

Gabon announces that it will withdraw its contingent of 444 peacekeepers from MINUSCA following allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse against members of the contingent.

### 9 APRIL

Five months after pledging troops to MINUSCA, Brazil cancels its planned deployment of up to 750 troops with specialized assets and capabilities. Political challenges with Congressional authorization for the deployment, rising crime and insecurity in Rio de Janeiro, budgetary constraints facing the armed forces, and hesitancy to deploy to CAR in the face of risks to UN peacekeepers are cited as a rationale for the cancelled deployment.

### 26 APRIL

Côte d’Ivoire announces it will deploy up to 450 troops to MINUSCA, but the pledge is ultimately not delivered on.

### 6 MAY

Rwanda deploys an additional 540 troops to MINUSCA amid ongoing delays in meeting the additional capacity mandated by the Security Council in November 2017.



UN Photo/Nektarios Markogiannis

### 30 MAY

Six-months after the UN Security Council authorized an increase in military capacity, only 400 of the planned 900 additional troops are deployed in CAR. The UN **has approached** Canada, Colombia, and Uruguay to request personnel contributions for MINUSCA without success.

### 28 JUNE

The UN **announces that Nepal** will contribute between 600-700 troops to MINUSCA.

### 5 JULY

Following requests from the UN Secretary-General and CAR Government, Gabon **announces that it will keep its troops deployed** to MINUSCA amid ongoing shortfalls facing the mission.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

### 15 OCTOBER

Eleven months after mandating an additional 900 troops for MINUSCA, **the UN reports** that 750 out of the 900 troops have been deployed, with the remaining 150 expected by the end of November.

### 15 NOVEMBER

The UN Security Council **approves the one-month “technical rollover”** for MINUSCA mandate following disagreement between France, Russia, and United States on draft resolution under negotiation.

### 30 NOVEMBER

Following reports from the UN Secretary-General that the full 900 additionally authorized troops would be deployed to MINUSCA by the end of November; the head of MINUSCA confirms in an interview that the mission is still missing 350 of the troops pledged by Nepal.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

### 26 NOVEMBER

A MINUSCA peacekeeper from Egypt is killed and 3 others wounded in an attack against a UN convoy in Gambo.

### 4 DECEMBER

A MINUSCA peacekeeper from Mauritania is killed and 3 other peacekeepers are wounded while defending an IDP site in Bria from an attack.

### 11 DECEMBER

Fighting between armed groups in Bangui’s PK5 district leaves several civilians dead.

## 2018

### 23 JANUARY

The UN Refugee Agency reports that forced displacement in CAR reached “unprecedented levels” in 2017, with over 688,000 people internally displaced. As of the beginning of 2018, there were 542,380 refugees.

### 21 MARCH

Clashes in Bambari, Seko, and Alindao leave at least 13 civilians dead, including a religious leader.

### 2 APRIL

21 civilians are killed in an attack in the town of Tagbara. Women and children are among the dead. A MINUSCA peacekeeper from Mauritania is killed and 11 others are wounded in a subsequent attack against a MINUSCA temporary operating base in the town.

### 7 APRIL

MINUSCA launches “Operation Sukula” with national security forces in an attempt to dislodge predatory armed criminal groups operating in the PK5 district of the city. Allegations of civilian casualties caused by MINUSCA follow the operation, while significant violence in the area continues over the following days.

### 10 APRIL

MINUSCA peacekeepers clash with an armed group in the PK5 area of the capital. As many as 30 people are killed and over 100 wounded in the ensuing violence in the area. A MINUSCA peacekeeper from Rwanda is killed and 8 other peacekeepers wounded.

### 2 MAY

At least 26 civilians are killed and approximately 100 people are wounded in a deadly attack on the Notre Dame de Fatima church in Bangui. The church had been attacked in previous outbreaks of violence in Bangui.

### 14 MAY

Fighting erupts in Bambari, a town previously declared a “weapons-free zone” by MINUSCA. At least 24 people are killed, tens of thousands of civilians displaced, and the compounds of 9 humanitarian organizations are looted in the ensuing violence.

### 17 MAY

A MINUSCA peacekeeper from Mauritania is killed and 8 others are wounded in an attack on a MINUSCA convoy in the town of Alindao.

### 23 MAY

A grenade attack at a market in Bangui’s PK5 district kills 2 people. An armed group from PK5 attacks the Fatima neighborhood the same day, leaving 10 dead.

### 29 MAY

The UN reports that more than a quarter of the entire population of CAR has been displaced by conflict, with the number of IDPs soaring by over 70% over a one-year period.

### 10 JUNE

A MINUSCA peacekeeper from Burundi is killed during a three-hour clash with armed groups in the town of Bambari.

### 17 JULY

3 MINUSCA peacekeepers are injured after intervening in an anti-balaka militant attack on Pombolo village.

### 5 AUGUST

31 civilians are killed and 11 villages razed during violence in Bria and the surrounding area between August and September.

### 23 AUGUST

Anti-balaka forces attack MINUSCA personnel in Pavika. A MINUSCA peacekeeper is killed during the shootout.

### 3 SEPTEMBER

The UN warns of a “disastrous” humanitarian situation in Alindao following armed clashes. As many as 37,000 people displaced in the town.

### 7 SEPTEMBER

MSF reports it has treated 1,914 victims of sexual violence in the first six months of 2018 alone.

### 31 OCTOBER

Violent clashes break out in Batangafo in northern CAR, resulting in the burning of three IDP sites. 10,000 people seek shelter at an MSF-run hospital. At least 11 civilians are killed in violence in the town between late October and early November.

### 15 NOVEMBER

At least 70 people are killed and over 26,000 people displaced in an attack on the Évêché IDP site in Alindao. MINUSCA peacekeepers from Mauritania are alleged to have not responded during the attack despite being deployed just meters away from the IDP site.



UN Photo/Kim Haughton

The timeline presents the most serious incidents of violence against civilians in CAR reported publicly by the UN, news media, or other sources. There are likely significant unreported incidents of violence, and the entirety of the human toll of the conflict in CAR since 2012 is still unknown.

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